

Application No. 09/277,328

REMARKS

In a Final Office Action mailed September 26, 2001, claims 1-4 and 6-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bowers et al. (U.S. Patent 5,985,687). Claim 5 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicant has canceled claim 5 and amended independent claims 1, 9 and 13 to include the limitations of dependent claim 5.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 9 and 13 are allowable over the cited prior art reference. All remaining claims depend on independent claims 1, 9 and 13 and are thus also believed to be allowable over the cited prior art reference. Additional reasons for patentability have also been provided. Applicant thus believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Allowance at Examiner's earliest convenience is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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